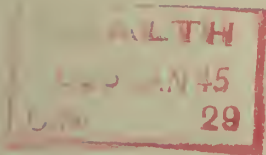


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IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1943.

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IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillors J.G. Enticott, J.P. (Chairman).  
J. Adams.  
E. Brew.  
A. Briggs.  
D. Hosford.  
R. James.  
A. J. Keal.  
J. McLean, J.P., C.A.  
W.H.J. Marshall.  
F. J. Melville, J.P.  
E. Owen, J.P., C.C. (Chairman of the Council).  
R. Sutton.

OFFICIALS.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical  
Superintendent Child Welfare  
Clinic ..... JOSEPH W. ROBERTS, L.S.A., Lond.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing  
Superintendent ..... L. F. ATHERTON, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births - Legitimate .....	123	133	256
Illegitimate .....	5	6	11
Stillbirths .....	6	-	6
Birth rate.....			19.4
Deaths .....	69	62	131
Death rate .....			9.5
Deaths from Puerperal causes .....			Nil
Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births .....			29
Deaths from Measles .....			Nil
Deaths from Diphtheria .....			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) .....			2
Deaths from Whooping Cough .....			1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....			19

ANNUAL REPORT  
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Public Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

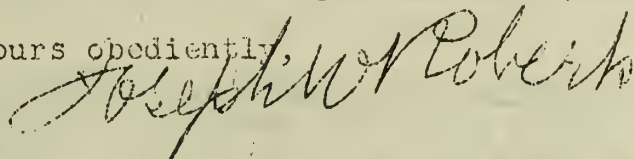
I desire to present my annual report on the health of the district for the year 1943.

It is pleasing to note that during that year there was a substantial increase in the birthrate and also a slight reduction in the number of deaths.

Again, no maternal deaths were notified and a further reduction occurred in infantile mortality rate.

The general statistical summary including tables of local populations has been omitted as in previous war years.

Yours obediently,



Medical Officer of Health.

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL.

The county district of Irlam is roughly square in shape, with sides over three and a half miles long.

A considerable area of the Great Chat Moss comes within the district boundaries and, being unfit for building purposes, is almost all under cultivation. This provides a relieving contrast to the remainder of the area which is intensely industrial in character.

Employment in the district is good, and no conditions have been noted of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births belonging to the district after the necessary adjustments for inward and outward transfers was 267, giving a birthrate of 19.4 against 14.6 for the previous year.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 88, but deducting 4 deaths of persons not usually resident in this district and adding 47 deaths of residents which occurred in other districts, the corrected number was 131.

This gave a deathrate of 9.5 per 1,000 of population compared with 9.7 in 1942.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 8 deaths of children under one year of age, giving a deathrate of 29 per 1,000 live births, compared with 34 for the previous year.

CANCER.

There were 19 deaths from cancer, a reduction of 8 compared with the previous year.

ORGANIC HEART DISEASE.

27 deaths, giving a deathrate of 1.90 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 1.73 in 1942.

RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

25 deaths (bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases), giving a deathrate of 1.80 per 1,000, compared with 24 deaths giving a deathrate of 1.73 for 1942.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The table below gives the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases. Compared with the previous year there were large increases in the number of cases of scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough and pneumonia, but a further decline in the number of cases of diphtheria. The scarlet fever was generally of a mild type.

The Council's scheme for artificial immunisation against diphtheria was continued during the year and secured a good response from parents.

Diphtheria antitoxin is available to all medical practitioners at the Public Health Office.

TABLE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES  
(other than tuberculosis).

Disease	Number notified	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	83	27	-
Diphtheria	5	3	-
Acute Pneumonia	58	-	10
Puerperal pyrexia	1	-	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Measles	69	-	-
Whooping Cough	58	-	1
Totals	279	30	11

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children immunised during the year:

Pre-school age .....	250
School age .....	108
	<u>358</u>

Total number of children  
immunised since incep-  
tion of scheme .....2155

DISINFECTION was carried out by spraying infected rooms with formalin solution and fumigating with vapour. Disinfectants are supplied free.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION IN DIAGNOSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a statement of the bacteriological examinations of specimens sent from this district during the year:

Diphtheria		Enteric Fever		Tuberculosis	
Total	Positive	Total	Positive	Total	Positive
24	2	1	-	83	8



TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease are given in the following table:

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0- .....	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1- .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5- .....	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
10- .....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15- .....	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
20- .....	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	-
25- .....	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
35- .....	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
45- .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55- .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

The notification of tuberculosis was satisfactory, and it was not found necessary to take any action regarding cases of neglect or refusal to notify. All deaths from tuberculosis were previously notified.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

(a) Infectious Diseases other than Smallpox. The scheme submitted to the Minister of Health by the Lancashire County Council under section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of adequate hospital accommodation in connection with the treatment of infectious diseases in the county, provides that for infectious disease other than smallpox, Irlam should be grouped with the Boroughs of Stretford and Eccles, and the Urban Districts of Farnworth and Urmston; these authorities constituting Area XXV of the county scheme. The minimum number of beds to be provided for the area is 110, and the Urban District Council is responsible for the reservation of 10 of this number.

The Minister's approval to the County Scheme was received in February 1938, and in May 1938 an agreement was completed between the Salford Corporation and the authorities concerned for the treatment of patients at the Ladywell Sanatorium.

(b) Smallpox. For the provision of adequate hospital accommodation for the treatment of smallpox, the County Scheme includes Irlam in Area XIV along with the Borough of Eccles, and six beds are required to be reserved for the two authorities.

(b) Smallpox contd.

Several joint meetings have been held between the representatives of Eccles and Irlan and, at the end of the year, negotiations were in progress for the reservation of six beds at Salford Corporation's smallpox hospital, Drinkwater Park.

Pending satisfactory completion of the new scheme the urban Council remains a party to a special agreement with Manchester Corporation for the treatment of smallpox cases at Clayton Hospital.

(c) General. For general purposes the hospitals in Manchester, Salford and Flixton were utilised.

The Public Assistance hospital<sup>is</sup> for the area ~~are~~ at Patricroft, ~~and Flixton~~.

There is no institutional provision in the district for unmarried mothers, illegitimate or homeless children.

No day nurseries, tuberculosis dispensaries or clinics for the treatment of venereal diseases are provided in the district.

The Council makes annual contributions to the Manchester and Salford medical charities and the Eccles hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Infectious cases are removed in the motor ambulances provided by the Salford Corporation.

(b) A motor ambulance is provided and maintained by the Council, and is available day and night, for the removal of cases of accident or sudden illness, and by arrangements for cases requiring hospital or surgical treatment. The service was adequate. Statistical information as to the use and cost of the Council's service is given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

MORTUARY.

13 bodies were brought into the mortuary during the year (residents 12, non-residents 1).

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

Through the local District Nursing Association the services of a nurse are available for general nursing. The Association is entirely voluntary.

There is no employment of (or subsidy to) practising midwives in the district by the Council. The Midwives Act is administered by the Lancashire County Council. There were three midwives practising in the district.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.

This work is administered by the Lancashire County Council. There are two clinics in the district, and sessions were held once a week throughout the year on Wednesdays. Good attendances were maintained.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No maternal death was notified during the year.

SCHOOLS.

All schools in the district are visited at regular intervals by the County Council inspecting staff, and in addition, your officials make periodical inspections concerning sanitary arrangements generally.

CAUSES OF DEATH for the year 1943 - classified under  
the headings of the Abridged List of Causes.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	1	1	2
Appendicitis .....	-	2	2
Whooping Cough .....	-	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	3	3	6
Other Tuberculosis .....	1	-	1
Cancer .....	8	11	19
Intra. cron. vasc. lesions .....	5	4	9
Heart Disease .....	8	19	27
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	4	2	6
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	9	1	10
Bronchitis .....	9	5	14
Diabetes .....	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .....	1	-	1
Other respiratory diseases .....	1	-	1
Premature birth .....	-	1	1
Influenza .....	2	3	5
Nephritis .....	4	2	6
Road traffic accidents .....	3	-	3
Other Digestive Diseases .....	2	1	3
Congenital Debility .....	-	1	1
Suicide .....	1	1	2
Violence .....	1	-	1
Other Defined Diseases .....	5	4	9
Totals .....	69	62	131



Cases of INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1943, other than Tuberculosis.

Disease	Total Cases	At ages - Years											Cases Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths	
		Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-			65- over
Scarlet Fever..	83	-	2	5	10	10	40	13	1	1	-	1	-	27	-
Diphtheria ....	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-
Measles .....	69	-	8	10	11	19	20	-	3	7	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	58	2	3	2	4	2	6	1	1	7	7	16	7	-	10
Puerperal															
pyrexia .....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	58	3	2	7	8	7	31	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	1
Erysipelas ....	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ....	278	5	15	24	33	38	98	14	6	10	8	19	8	30	11

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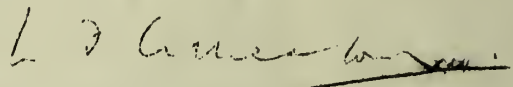
To the Chairman and Members of the  
Public Health Committee.

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and circumstances of the district for the year 1943.

The essential sanitary services were again well-maintained despite many difficulties.

The Council's housing demolition plan under the Housing Acts 1930-36 was carried a stage nearer completion by the demolition of three unfit houses in the Whitfield Street area and three cottages in Woods Road. The external fabric of these properties had deteriorated to the extent that demolition was necessary in the interests of safety.

The report which follows has again been confined to the minimum detail necessary to preserve an intelligible record of the department's activities during the fourth year of the war.



Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply. Nine properties in the outlying parts of the district receive water supplies from the county borough of Warrington. The remainder of the district is served by the mains of the Manchester Corporation. Supplies were constant and of good quality. Four samples were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination and gave good results.

Rivers and Streams. Frequent inspections were made of rivers and streams.

Two complaints concerning the flooding of agricultural land were dealt with by the County land drainage engineer, this department rendering assistance whenever possible.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

With the exception of a small number of isolated houses, chiefly on the Moss area, all properties are connected to the sewers.

Sewers and drains are regularly flushed.

The activated sludge system is the method employed at the Council's sewage works, and a satisfactory effluent was maintained.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The following approximate particulars are given of the sanitary accommodation in the district at the end of 1943:

Fresh-water closets .....	4822
Waste-water closets .....	21
Privy-middens .....	17
Pail-closets .....	82

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action during 1943.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The standards adopted by the Council for regulating the trade of fish-fryer have been generally complied with.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

During the year, the following visits were made:

<u>Nature of inspections.</u>	<u>Visits.</u>
General sanitation (Public Health and Housing Acts) .....	230
Housing inspections (Consolidated Regulations) .....	19
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops .....	21
Foodshops and premises .....	103
Factories and other premises .....	14
Public cleansing service .....	111
Re infectious diseases .....	88
Miscellaneous .....	27

COMPLAINTS.

86 complaints were received during the year, details of which are as follows:

<u>Nature of complaint.</u>	<u>Number received.</u>
Housing defects .....	25
Choked or defective drains .....	9
Accumulation of refuse etc. ....	6
Verminous houses .....	15
General insanitary conditions .....	16
Miscellaneous .....	15
	<hr/> 86 <hr/>

All complaints were investigated and the necessary action taken.

HOUSING.Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

- (1) By the Local Authority ..... Nil.
- (2) By other Local Authorities ..... Nil.
- (3) By other Bodies or persons ..... Nil.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..... 171
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations ..... 19
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... 2
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... 169

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers . 113

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

No action found necessary.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding:

One case of overcrowding was relieved during the year.



NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE.

81 preliminary notices were served during the year. The following statement gives details of the work carried out under the supervision of the Department:

House walls repaired .....	12
Gutters and downspouts repaired .....	14
Ceilings and walls re-plastered .....	11
Leaking roofs repaired .....	7
New sink wastepipes provided .....	2
Defective floors reconstructed .....	11
Dangerous firegrates rebuilt .....	6
Burst pipes repaired .....	8
Sashcords to windows etc. ....	3
Yard surfaces reconstructed .....	4
Choked drains cleansed .....	9
Drains repaired or reconstructed ....	1
New dustbins provided .....	108
Accumulations removed .....	6
Dirty houses cleansed .....	15
Rat infestation .....	9
Miscellaneous .....	13

Eradication of Bed Bugs. 2 Council houses and 13 private owned properties were treated with hydrocyanic acid gas, the work being done by a contractor. The Council does not undertake disinfection work.

Frequent visits of inspection were made by the sanitary inspector and housing estates manager in connection with the supervision and education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation of Council properties.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

There were four cowkeepers with registered premises in the district and these were found to be generally satisfactory. Other registered dairy premises were well-maintained.

Nine samples of milk, including milk supplied to schools, were examined, with results as follows:

	<u>Number</u> <u>samples.</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>satisfactory.</u>
For general bacterial count and		
B. Coli .....	9	8
For detection of tuberculosis ....	4	4
Accredited standard .....	1	1

The sample found to be unsatisfactory was produced outside the urban district and appropriate action was taken by the local authority concerned.

GRADED MILKS.

The following licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938:

To retail "Accredited" milk ..... 1

To retail "Pasteurised" milk ..... 1

One dairyman was granted a licence to pasteurise milk. Frequent inspections of the pasteurising plant were made during the year.

MEAT.

There are no registered or licensed slaughterhouses in the district. Butchers' shops were frequently inspected.

OTHER FOOD PREMISES.

Vehicles for the conveyance of food and places where food is prepared were regularly inspected.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following is a list of foods surrendered, during the year, as unfit for human consumption:

	<u>lbs</u>	<u>Number.</u>
Beef .....	57	
Corned beef .....	114	
Pork .....	63	
Sausages .....	27	
Luncheon meat .....	23	
Beast liver .....	20	
Black puddings .....	35	
Bacon .....	21	
Margarine .....	5	
Tinned meat and vegetables .....		36 tins
Tinned milk .....		37 tins

SHOPS ACT 1934.

The provisions of the Act respecting heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation were reasonably complied with.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE.

A more frequent cleansing service was maintained than during the preceding war years and consequently the number of complaints concerning the non-removal of refuse was less. It was not possible, however, to attain the pre-war standard of weekly collections of refuse.

Shortage of labour was again the greatest difficulty and it was with a certain amount of trepidation that female collectors were engaged. It is pleasing to be able to report that their work has been excellently done. Salvage work is one of the least attractive and poorly paid wartime services for women operatives and I have pleasure in recording that those engaged by this Council have given of their best and proved their worth in a vital wartime occupation.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE contd.

The most important of the salvage activities during the year was the County book drive in which all local authorities took part. The book target for this district was 28,000; the actual number collected being 73,876. A fine achievement and finer to know that to the schools were we chiefly indebted for trebling the target.

As in previous years a steady salvage output was maintained by the Council and this together with the private salvage efforts of the various factories made a substantial quota from the district as a whole.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

472 calls for service were received as a result of accident or illness, and the following particulars are given of the service rendered during the year:

<u>Cases attended</u>	:	Accidents .....	76
		Other cases .....	396
		Total .....	<u>472</u>

Journeys were made to and from the undermentioned hospitals:

	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Total</u>
Park Hospital, Flixton (Military) .....	2	-	2
Salford Royal Hospital .....	70	29	99
Manchester Royal Infirmary .....	7	1	8
Stretford Memorial Hospital .....	-	1	1
Car-side Street Hospital, Manchester ...	1	-	1
Green Lane Institution .....	12	3	15
Ancoats Hospital, Manchester .....	12	13	25
Manchester Northern Hospital .....	3	12	15
St Mary's Hospital, Manchester .....	9	18	27
Eccles and Patricroft Hospital .....	16	16	32
Christie's Hospital, Manchester .....	12	-	12
Hope Hospital, Salford .....	33	10	43
Warren Hill Nursing Home, Woolston .....	4	-	4
Pendlebury Children's Hospital .....	2	-	2
Warrington Infirmary .....	4	-	4
Abbotsfield Hospital, Flixton .....	76	38	114
Manchester Eye Hospital .....	7	-	7
Jericho Hospital, Bury .....	-	2	2
Clarendon Nursing Home .....	5	1	6
Barnes Hospital, Cheadle .....	-	1	1
Wigan Infirmary .....	1	-	1
Withington Hospital .....	1	-	1
	<u>277</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>422</u>
To or from premises other than hospitals			<u>50</u>
			<u>472</u>

The total mileage registered was 8,735, giving an average of 18.87 miles per journey.

